

HAWAII IMMIGRANT HEALTH INITIATIVE

Request For Information No. RFI-MQD-2008-008

**Department of Human Services
Med-QUEST Division
September 27, 2007**

INTRODUCTION

Reason for the RFI

The State of Hawaii, through its Medicaid agency, the Department of Human Services (DHS), Med-QUEST Division (MQD), is issuing this Request for Information (RFI) to seek information to prepare a Request for Proposal (RFP) for primary health coverage for legal immigrants who have been prohibited from participating in federally funded medical assistance programs due to federal legislation (Public Law No. 104-193, 110 Stat. 2105-2355 referred to as “the Welfare Reform Act”).

The information received through this RFI will assist DHS in preparing a RFP. The DHS will be seeking vendors with the ability to provide primary care services, medically necessary specialty care and pharmacy services, on a statewide basis for adult legal resident aliens, whom, but for the Welfare Reform Act restrictions, would be eligible for Medicaid coverage. The contractor is required to provide only those services that are covered under Hawaii’s Medicaid State Plan

BACKGROUND

In the United States, the principle of self-sufficiency has historically been the basis for immigration law and national policy. The laws and policy are based on the view that 1) immigrants within the nation’s borders should not depend on public resources to meet their needs but rather rely on their own capabilities and the resources of their families, their sponsors, and private organizations; and 2) the availability of public benefits should not constitute an incentive for immigration to the United States.

The Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act, enacted by Congress in 1996, was borne out of a growing concern that in spite of the self-sufficiency principle, immigrants have been applying for and receiving public benefits from Federal, State and local governments at increasingly alarming rates.

To address these concerns, Congress passed the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996, Public Law No. 104-193, 110 Stat. 2105-2355 (hereinafter referred to as the Welfare Reform Act) that mandated that immigrants be banned from receiving federally funded public benefits for the first five (5) years after entry into the United States. As it relates to medical assistance, since the enactment of the Welfare Reform Act, qualified aliens arriving in the United States on or after August 22, 1996 have been barred from receiving Medicaid assistance.

Under the Welfare Reform Act, States were given the option to provide or continue to provide federal Medicaid coverage to: 1) qualified aliens who entered the United State prior to August 22, 1996 as well as 2) to those immigrants

entering the United States on or after August 22, 1996 after their first five (5) years of residency. In keeping with Hawaii's long history of providing for its immigrant populations, the State elected to implement both options.

Approximately \$550,000 in State general funds for each year of the biennium are available to provide medical coverage for legal immigrants who, as a result of the Welfare Reform Act, have been prohibited from participating in the Medicaid program. The state-funded Hawaii Immigrant Health Initiative (IHI) is intended to provide a safety net for those legal adult immigrants who are ineligible for QUEST or the Medicaid Fee-For-Service programs solely due to their immigrant status.

RFI RESPONSE

Assuming that the DHS pursues a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) to provide primary health care on a statewide basis for the legal immigrant population affected by the Welfare Reform Act, please provide responses to the following inquiries based on how your organization would propose to provide services to this population.

1. What recommendations can you make to the DHS about how best to provide the services to the targeted population and are there any special considerations should be taken into account that should be included in the RFP.
2. The program provides services that are limited to primary care provided in a clinical setting that includes health assessments/physical examinations, acute/episodic care, preventive care, chronic care, follow-up and referral. Specialty care and pharmacy services are also covered if deemed medically necessary by the provider. Is this package of services sufficient to meet the needs of the immigrant population or should a different array of services be provided through the program to meet the needs of the target population?
3. Are there additional services that should be considered to be included in the package of covered services, and if so, the rationale for providing the additional service should be included in your response.
4. What are the essential components to having a sound program that provides basic primary care? What are the key types of staff and their qualifications that must be present?
5. Are there appropriate utilization management components or service utilization areas that should be included in the program to ensure the most efficient and appropriate use of resources.
6. Based on your organization's experiences with the provision of primary care services, please provide the DHS with any suggestions or recommendations that may assist the DHS in developing a realistic and reasonable RFP.

RESPONSE SUBMISSION

RFI submission must include name, organization (if applicable), and contact information of person/organization submitting the response.

Responses to this RFI are due by (ten days), 2007, 2:00 p.m., Hawaii Standard Time (HST). Please indicate on the cover "Hawaii Immigrant Health Initiative RFI Response, RFI-MQD-2008-008" and mail or deliver one (1) original, three (3) copies, and an electronic version stored in Microsoft Word 2003 or lower to:

Mr. Alan Matsunami, Acting Administrator
Department of Human Services
Med-QUEST Division
Health Coverage Management Branch
1001 Kamokila Boulevard, Suite 317
Kapolei, HI 96707

CONFIDENTIAL INFORMATION

If respondents believe that portions of their RFI response should remain confidential, respondents shall clearly identify that portion of their response they wish to maintain as confidential and include a statement detailing the reasons that the information should not be disclosed. Such reasons shall include specific harm or prejudice that may arise. The DHS Director and the Acting Administrator shall determine whether the identified information should remain confidential. A prior notice shall be provided to the respondent should any information which was requested to be confidential become part of public distribution/information.

COST OF RESPONSE

DHS will not reimburse any respondent for the cost of preparing and submitting a response to this RFI.

USE OF INFORMATION

The Department reserves the right to incorporate in a solicitation, if issued, for such a contract, any recommendations presented in responses to this RFI. Please note that participation in this RFI process is optional and is not required in order to respond to any subsequent procurement by the Department. Neither the Department nor the responding party has any obligation under this RFI.

If there are any questions or clarifications to this RFI, please contact Mr. Alan Matsunami at (808) 692-8083 or at AMatsunami@medicaid.dhs.state.hi.us.